

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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Number 13

WITHIN THE WEEK

The action of the Nazis in intensifying their control over s-e Europe was a perfectly obvious move. Certainly no realist could anticipate that the Germans would permit independent action in the Balkan countries; this territory is too vital to the future security of the Reich for Hitler to chance possible defections.

It is too soon to weigh the full consequences, but the broad implications are quite apparent. The prime significance of current unrest in the Balkans is not that it portends an early and effective revolt of these peoples (although the strangulation tactics of the Nazis will certainly strengthen and solidify opposition.) The big point at the moment is that Hitler is forced to divert troops, guns and planes to this area—men and materiel sorely needed to meet a coming invasion in the west.

Intensified Nazi control of Balkans may imperil considerable number of Jews who have found something approaching a haven in Hungary and Rumania.

FUTURE: As we view the picture, a major allied offensive in the Balkans this spring does not appear likely. Much as we might like to see such a diversion, there are practical difficulties in the way of its fulfillment. The Red army presently may be expected to meet solidified resistance in Rumania. The brilliant pace of recent wks

cannot be maintained. Supply problems will arise; spring floods are only a calendar leaf away.

Prospects of effective support from U S and British forces are not as bright as they appeared a few wks ago. How can our troops get into the Balkans at this time? Turkey remains out of the war; we have lost our hold on the Aegean islands. The route into Yugoslavia from Adriatic, while theoretically possible, presents practical problems. And at the rate we are inching our way northward in Italy, we shall not be able soon to utilize that entry.

RUSSIA: While we anticipate slow going in Rumania, watch the Russian drive on Warsaw.

ITALY: Nazis play a shrewd game in their assertion that "all military installations" will be withdrawn from Rome, so that responsibility for the bombing of that city "will remain entirely with the Allies." Our military leaders are skeptical.

PACIFIC: Not enough credit has been given our aerial photo reconnaissance. It's truly phenomenal. Close-ups of Jap installations (some taken from as low as 50 ft) permit detailed planning that results in saving many lives.

JAPAN: Jap columns this wk made their first penetration of India, continued march toward key road junction of Imphal.



SHIFTING SANDS

The talk in Washington now is of S (for Success) Day—the period when our invasion forces are firmly established in Western Europe. . . . Some landlords in industrial areas are telling tenants they cannot assume seasonal cleaning and decorating expense, because of increased taxes and operating costs. It's one way of partially evading rent ceilings. . . . Poll of membership shows Mortgage Bankers ass'n strongly favoring creation of a single federal agency to liquidate property acquired by govt for prosecution of war. . . . Transportation men are speculating on future trend of ODT, with passing of Jos B. Eastman who, on the whole, has been conservative operator. . . . New Army policy is to employ 3000-5000 civilian teachers to replace soldiers now instructing illiterates in armed forces. . . . Two-way mail service between liberated Italy and U S was opened this wk. Mail, subject to censorship, includes postal money-order service.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"It's a case of political cannibalism. . . Hitler has swallowed his satellite."—RAYMOND GRAM SWING, radio commentator, discussing Nazi occupation of Hungary.

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"I tell you it was terrible! . . Give me the good old days when a bo could ride the rods in comfort."—JEFF DAVIS, King of Hoboes, commenting on a recent trip in a ry day coach.

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"I never talk politics while on a business trip."—JAS A FARLEY, queried in Pittsburgh concerning faction which may seek to wrest from him chairmanship of N Y State Democratic committee.

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"It's pretty informal, of course, but there's a definite understanding."—HARVE FISCHMAN, Quiz Kid star, admitting his "engagement" to an associate, 9-yr-old RUTHIE DUSKIN.

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"It's absurd to say they are sold only to art students . . . a great waste of paper!"—Lady NANCY ASTOR, campaigning against the production of illustrated publications of nudes, ostensibly intended for art students.

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"Don't trust men who take off their hats in elevators. They probably beat their wives when they get home at night."—Comment of an elderly male, in a recent Baltimore "Courtesy" survey.

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"I'm damned if I know what happened to my copy of the Social Register; I recall perfectly having it with me at Guadalcanal."—A Lieutenant, on leave from Pacific, asking Sherry-Netherland hotel mgr for the loan of a copy.

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"We have a long way to go in this war. Let none of us forget that it is an all-hands job. . . In the navy there are three things—machines, men, morale. Of these, morale is of the highest importance. To the men at the battlefield it comes from the folks at home."—Adm ERNEST J KING, addressing citizens of his home town (Lorain, O) at launching of U S S *Lorain*.

"MAY WE
Quote
YOU ON THAT?"

"We are so recently off the farm that we like to show others how little work we have to do. This attitude explains our going soft in the last few decades."—Dr PERCY M DAWSON, physiologist, urging more active sports participation.

"The second front has already begun—it's going on now. . . When the Germans have been sufficiently stunned, we will invade them. It's a setup."—Gen Sir BERNARD L MONTGOMERY.

"It is as irrelevant for an industrial nation today to debate whether to plan or not to plan as it would have been in 1800 to debate whether or not to use power-driven machinery."—Dr ROB'T S LYND, Columbia U.

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"The children of 1945 and '46 will be all right, once life gets back into patterns that are healthy, clean, good and comfortable."—FRANCES PERKINS, sec'y of Labor, addressing Children's Bureau Commission.

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"The way you are foolishly spending money today is a shame and a disgrace. Not only are most of you now wasting money, but you are almost convincing your friends that you are unworthy to have good wages."—ROGER BABSON, in a statement to our Negro population.

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"Man for man and plane for plane, we are now greatly superior to the Germans, and we have a considerable numerical superiority, too."—Capt JAS A VERINIS, co-pilot, *Memphis Belle*, Flying Fortress which made 1st air raid by American forces on Germany.

"I know dere's a million good-lookin' guys, but I'm a novelty."—JIMMY DURANTE.

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"We must guard ourselves strictly against too much indulgence in postwar thinking."—CHAS E WILSON, exec v-p WPB.

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"A good-looking leg is still a good-looking leg in nylon, or rayon, or net. And, to me, the present models look as good as the pre-war ones."—KENNY BAKER, radio and motion picture actor, now starring with MARY MARTIN in the stage play, *A Touch of Venus*.

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"Lodge work keeps me out of mischief."—CHAS F RANDOLPH, Two Rivers, Wis. At 77, he's sec'y of six fraternal groups; a member or officer of seven others.

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"She said I was always dropping in at the wrong time."—A Paratrooper, explaining to ARLENE FRANCIS, on the *Blind Date* radio program why he and his girl friend are no longer keeping company.

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"If Mr Roosevelt will consent to a 4th term, it won't make a bit of difference whom the Republicans nominate."—MARSHALL FIELD, publisher, *Chicago Sun*, addressing City Club, Cleveland.

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"For God to stop war would be to disregard the responsibility of those who started it."—ALLEN O MILLER, prof, Heidelberg college, Tiffen, O.

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"I may be alone in my belief, but I predict that Pres Roosevelt will not be a candidate for a 4th term. I don't think he will run the risk of a defeat, thereby detracting from what, for him, have been 12 glorious yrs."—JOHN VIVIAN, Gov of Colorado.

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"Because of the increased use of synthetic materials, microscopes may be standard equipment for sales persons in the postwar period, to assure customers that a fabric is 'all-wool' or 'pure silk'."—Dr FRANK K SCHOENFELD, technical sup't, B. F. Goodrich Co.

"American forces are approaching complete air supremacy in practically every theatre in which they are in operation at a much faster pace than the Army had dared to hope."—Gen GEO C MARSHALL, Army chief of staff.

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"Our aim is to produce a dictionary that will settle all disputes. We hope that any interested person who thinks that a given word is an Americanism can turn to this dictionary and either confirm his opinion or be set right."—M M MATHEWS, editor, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, soon to be published by U of Chicago.

"Some internat'l agency must be created which can—by force, if necessary—keep the peace among nations in the future.

"A system of organized internat'l co-operation for the maintenance of peace must be based upon the willingness of the co-operating nations to use force, if necessary, to keep the peace; there must be certainty that adequate and appropriate means are available and will be used for this purpose."—CORDELL HULL, sec'y of State, in a statement outlining U S Foreign Policy.

"Any shrewd politician knows that Willkie and Vandenberg could not have carried Mich in '40 but for my help."—GERALD L K SMITH, Detroit, organizer and director of *America First*, asserting that a Willkie representative recently offered him "anything you want" in ret'n for support. (Willkie brands statement, "absolute falsehood", adds that in Detroit last yr he "thanked Smith for his opposition; expressed the hope he would continue it.")

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"We are not going to be able to feed Europe on our own, when the war ends. Europe will have to draw from such places as Australia and Argentina. We hope many of the liberated areas will be able to grow food themselves." — MARVIN JONES, War Food administrator, testifying before Senate banking committee.

"Rationing of prejudice is needed to win the postwar peace."—CARL J HAMBRO, president, League of Nations ass'n.

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"The thing that caused me the most suffering in leaving Rome was having to part with my collection of coins."—King VITTORIO EMMANUELE.

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"The Japanese empire is facing decisive struggles which will decide the destiny of the entire nation. Japan now faces the most critical stage of its history." — Premier HIROKO Tojo, in a warning to Japanese Parliament.

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"I do not seek and will do nothing personally to secure the nomination (for President). If, notwithstanding this position, I were to be nominated, I would consider it to be my plain duty to accept and would do so, requesting inactive duty for a sufficient time to discuss with the people the issues and problems of the future. . . I will make no statement on political issues while on active duty. . . I wish no publicity of my activities in the navy to be used in a political manner, and no one is authorized to make political commitments on my behalf."—HAROLD E STASSEN, former Gov of Minn, now a Lt-Comdr in the U S Navy.

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"I am making public a notice sent by Selective Service Board No 2, of Grant County, Ind, to draft-age farmers asking them to report to the county war board 'within 5 days after you have signed up at your township AAA meeting and obtained a certified copy of your '44 production.' The notice continues, 'It is very important that you obtain this certificate . . . in its absence you may be placed in class 1-A.' This can be construed only to mean that unless the registrant signs up with AAA he will not be considered for deferment as an agricultural worker."—Rep FOREST A HARNESS, Ind. (Col ROBINSON HITCHCOCK, Indiana draft director, characterized Grant County notice as "an innocent mistake involving loose use of the English language.")

"How many more Stalingrads shall there be?"—Pertinent query in an Allied leaflet distributed via air to people of Germany.

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"A great deal of the future of the world depends on the way U S opinion shapes up at the polls."—Lord HALIFAX, British ambassador to U S.

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"There are 20 companies wanting to merge with us. I just want you to put it down that in 10 yrs we'll be bigger than Gen'l. Motors."—BILL JACK, of Jack & Heintz, Cleveland industrialists.

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"I don't want any daughter of mine fooling around with a lot of actors." — Hollywood father refusing permission to let his 3-wks-old daughter appear in the picture *Casanova Brown*.

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"The wolf pack of Communist smearers and radical New Deal and fellow-traveler stooges are out gunning for Gen Douglas MacArthur, our greatest fighting Gen'l".—Rep HAMILTON FISH, N Y.



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**Victory Without Guns?**

Maj Al WILLIAMS

I have a hunch that before the war ends a radically new air weapon will appear to the consternation of our enemies. The weapon will be an airplane without a single gun. In place of guns, a tube will project from each turret.

This bomber will fly into enemy air zones, with clouds of enemy single-seaters coming in to attack. The approach is orthodox until the fighters are two or three times beyond gun range, and then something happens.

One by one approaching fighters swerve away toward the earth, their motors silent.

I feel certain you will read about this before the war is over.

Sooner or later our scientists will hit upon a method of transmitting a wave length which will upset the high tension ignition system of aircraft engines. Motor car engines already have been stopped by the interference of wave length from distances of 20 ft.

The only feature of an aircraft assembly which is vulnerable to electric wave impulses is the ignition. And the most vulnerable part in the ignition is the condenser and the breaker points.

As soon as a method is developed for damaging a condenser by waves, the first step will have been taken toward the elimination of the internal combustion engine as the power plant of the warplane.

The first preventive measures against such a wave will be shielding the various types to protect the ignition units (usually magnets). The answer will be either safely shielded ignition systems or Diesel engines, which are not operated by electrical ignition systems.—Scripps-Howard Newspapers.

ALIBI

Hearing an employee answer a delayed delivery complaint with the phrase, "There's a war on, you know," the head of one company issued a bulletin forbidding the use of that alibi in answering any complaint. "Tell them the reason we have failed," he urges.—*American Business*.

Easter Thought

The Tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight, it opens on the dawn.—*The Upper Room*.

CONCENTRATION

Chas Kettering, famed scientist and Gen'l Motors inventor, was showing friends thru his home in Dayton. He showed them the basement workshop, specially-equipped laboratory, storage room for scientific equipment, experimental quarters, etc. "Wonderful", his friends agreed. Then someone asked, "How many rooms are there upstairs?"

"Oh, there?" shrugged Kettering. "I wouldn't know."—LEONARD LYONS, in his syndicated col.

CULTURE—by Example

Lord Beaverbrook brought the story from Russia. It was told by Stalin.

Long ago, when the Germans were marching forward instead of backward thru the Ukraine, they took a certain Russian village. As usual, retreating Russians had scorched their homes to the level of earth. But one building in the town remained standing—the library. Villagers had left it intact for the edification of the conquerors.—*Coronet*.

DIRECT ACTION

He cannot beat who beats around the bush.—FRED BECK, *Evangelical Beacon*.

DISTINCTIONS

Yes, there are two sides to everything—including a sheet of fly-paper. But it makes a lot of difference to the fly which side he's on.

DIVORCE

A Cobb country Negro recently remarked to a lady for whom he

was working,

"Well, missus, I done got married last wk."

"But," the lady protested, "you already have a wife. I didn't know you had a divorce from her yet."

"No'm," the Negro explained. "I don' have t' git no divorce. This secon' wife, she from Fulton county."—*Atlanta Jnl.*

ERROR—Admission

The man who can say, "I was wrong" can afford to be wrong once in awhile.—*Religious Telescope*.

EXPLANATION—Ingenious

We ran across a lad not long ago who is going to get along all right in this old world. Taunted by someone because of an inordinate number of freckles on his face, he replied good-naturedly:

"They ain't freckles. Y' see, I've been goin' swimmin' 'most every day, and them spots is just my iron constitution rustin' on me!"

GENEROSITY

When John Barrymore lived at the Algonquin, he frequently levied upon the private wardrobe of Frank Case, owner of that caravansary.

Once Barrymore was asked by Wilson Mizner to describe Case. "He's great," said Jack. "There are no adjectives to describe him. He's . . . he's . . ." At a loss for superlatives, the actor resorted to a Broadway phrase. "Why he's the sort who'd give you his . . ." He paused, seemed to realize something amazingly co-incidental, pointed to his own bosom, then exclaimed, "My God! This is his shirt!"—*GENE FOWLER, Good Night, Sweet Prince, (Viking)*.

GOVERNMENT—Japanese

The news that Hirohito did not invite Tojo—or any of the extreme militarists—to the last traditional New Year's reception is taken to indicate that the emperor may attempt some independent move toward ridding his country of its bloody masters, whenever the time is ripe, and emerging as our Asiatic Badoglio.—BURNET HERSHEY, "Why Handle Hirohito Gently?", *Liberty*, 3-18-'44.

INSULT—Subtle

Wandering through a 2nd-hand bookstore one day, Geo Bernard Shaw chanced to pick up a volume of his own plays which he had given to a friend some yrs before, inscribed, "With the compliments of the author." He purchased the book and, taking out his pen, wrote, "With renewed compliments"—and sent the book back to the original recipient. — MAX HERZBERG, *Insults*, (Greystone).

LABOR—Relations

I recall a certain strike out in the west some yrs ago. One of the employees was asked, "What's this about some labor trouble at your plant?"

"Labor trouble?" was the querying reply. "There's no labor trouble.

Immer und Ewig?

Now that the Red Army has regained vast Russian tracts which the Germans boasted would remain in their hold perpetually, we print below a translation of an item that appeared two brief yrs ago, in the German army newspaper, *Panzerfaust*:

Look upon these immense spaces now forever German! How much wheat, sugar beets, flax and cucumbers they'll grow! How many fragrant apples, how much golden honey! This land that we've conquered will remain ours forever. German soldier, take a luxurious handful of wheat and say to yourself: "I have fulfilled my destiny. My life is justified." Far from Germany, bread is ripening for future generations.

Some of the men are having a little management trouble."

And so it was. For in that case, management was at fault.—ERIC A. JOHNSTON, president, U S Chamber of Commerce, in an article in Scripps-Howard Newspapers.

LOVE—of Occupation

A great jeweler had just closed an important sale after one of his clerks had failed to interest the customer.

"Why is it," asked the patron,

puzzled, "that I bought this stone from you so willingly, yet I would not buy it from your salesman?"

"My salesman," said the jeweler "is one of the best men in the business. I pay him a large salary, for he is an expert in stones. Yet if I could take something from my own heart and implant it in his I would gladly pay him twice his present salary. That salesman knows precious stones—but I LOVE them."—WM STIDGER, *Chicago Daily News*.

MARRIED LIFE

Susan contemplated her month old brother from her vantage point of seven years. "Goodness!" she remarked. "He snores and he isn't even married yet."—MARCIA WINN, *Chicago Tribune*.

MERCHANDISING—in Wartime

Before this war is over, many a retailer will have discovered that one of the easiest jobs in the world is selling merchandise. And one of the hardest is selling nothing.—ALLEN LEWIS, "Nothing—Wrapped in Cellophane", *Canadian Business*, 3-'44.

NAZI—Punishment

Hitler's *Volkischer Beobachter*, Mar 8, carries an inconspicuous notice announcing that Prime Minister Churchill had been condemned to death for air attacks on the German capital. "It is useless to protest," the item warned. "Sentence has been passed. There is no appeal. The death sentence will be executed."—*Newsweek*.

NAZI—Strength

It is a shock to anyone ret'g from the front to hear people talk of the German army with contempt. Our people, for some strange reason, fear and hate the Japs, but dismiss the Germans casually. . .

Our combat gen'l's think the German Army is as strong as ever. They may be wrong, but, after all, their opinion, based on experience, seems worth considering.

They don't think we can lose this war, but they don't see yet how we can win it. Neither do I.—QUENTIN REYNOLDS, *The Curtain Rises* (Ran-dom).

Confidentially thru a Megaphone



Moral censorship of our entertainment media appears to run in cycles. At the moment, radio, in particular, seems almost unaccountably lax. Due, perhaps, to the fact that they appear so frequently before audiences of servicemen, the comedians (with a few notable exceptions) have been "liberalizing" their material. The script writers have slipped in more and more double-meaning gags until they are getting away with situations and dialogue that would have scared a sponsor stiff a couple of yrs ago. The "customers" are beginning to complain, and a blow-up is overdue. The result probably will be that a storm will break about the head of some one comedian—no more guilty than half-a-dozen others—and he will be the sacrificial goat.

A situation that is giving Hollywood studios some concern is the fan mail addressed to actors now in military service. It keeps coming in astonishing volume. Since the stars no longer employ secretarial aids to handle routine mail, the problem is what to do with the mail. In some instances, the letters have been following the actors in their military meanderings. But as Barbara Stanwick remarked the other day, concerning the unanswered correspondence of her husband, Lt Rob't Taylor: "Uncle Sam isn't going to assign a couple of busy sailors to take care of Bob's mail." One studio is reported setting up a dep't specially to handle the letters addressed to its men now in the armed forces.

Because of an alleged tendency on the part of major networks to curtail religious broadcasts, a new radio network, centering on station WLAV, Grand Rapids, is being formed to transmit such programs. More than 100 stations are already signed, according to principals.



AVIATION: Jas Strebiger, AP aviation editor, warns against expectation of rotating wings or jet propulsion in your first postwar air line trip. Prospect for some yrs to come is that peace liners will differ from prewar transports chiefly in size, efficiency, speed, comfort.

Army Air Force engineers now fit airplanes to men who fly them. Three cellulose acetate manikins—"Slim", "Shorty" and "Roger"—represent tall, short and medium classifications; influence design of turrets, cockpits, doors, passageways.—(*Modern Plastics*)

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PRODUCTION—Processes: Portland, Ore shipyard worker has invented tool that eliminates use of brackets in steel plate drilling, by attaching drill post directly to plates thru use of magnetism. Performs in 5 hrs drilling that formerly req'd 70 hrs. (UP)

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SCIENCE: Artificial lengthening of daylight may speed production of potential fur coats. Biologists at U S experiment sta, Saratoga Springs, N Y, have been experimenting with marten. In one test, with artificial daylight gradually lengthened, females gave birth to litters in 4½ mo's. Normal gestation: 8½ to 9 mo's. (AP)

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TRANSPORTATION — Military: Coast Guard has developed new super-jeep, rebuilt from ordinary jeep to meet special problems. In recent test, carried 10 men over sand-dune roller coaster at full speed, where GI jeep mired after 40 feet. Special designed wheels are the military secret. (UP)

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New-type dining car to accommodate 56, instead of present 36, is now in service on Grand Trunk ry. Will be used in troop movement.

OBSTINACY

When the other fellow is set in his way, he's obstinate; when you are, it's just firmness.—*Ladies Home Journal*.

PASTOR—Remuneration

No church "hires" a minister. The money paid is simply an expense acc't, or a release from the necessity of doing other work, so that he can give his whole time and energy to the work of the church.—WALTER R CLYDE, "Preaching in Obscurity", *Atlantic*, 2-44.

Well, It's One Way to Find a Room . . .

When he was told by the hotel clerk that no rooms were available, Roger Ferguson, a Detroit salesman, vaulted the desk, tackled the clerk and, in the scuffle, bit him severely on the ear.

Ferguson, charged with disorderly conduct, was hauled off to jail—where accommodations were provided.

POLITICS—Politicians

A geologist says the earth's crust is becoming dangerously thin in places. It may become necessary to skin a few politicians and half-sole the earth here and there.—OLIN MILLER.

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"You can't fool all of the people all of the time," observed a veteran of the political wars. "Besides, once every 4 yrs is enough."

PROGRESS

Romantic Pasha in North Africa has progressive ideas. Talking to Major Andre Baruch, former announcer now in Africa, he inquired about the possibilities of a closed-circuit radio set-up in his harem, so that he could broadcast whenever he wished. He already has an inter-communication system that allows him to push a button and contact any room in the harem. But the pay-off came when he asked, "And how is television progressing in your country, Major?"—*Broadcasting*.

RACE—Discrimination

Try this psychological trick on yourself. Whenever I cite an instance of Negro abuse, substitute the word Jew for Negro. Notice how blood pressure rises. . . As Americans, we should react with the same indignation toward all racial injustice. . .

The U S must do some house-cleaning before we dare say, "This is not a white man's war; this is a war for all humanity."—Rabbi J X COHEN, *Congress Wkly*.

REMUNERATION

The fellow who claims that the world owes him a living is up against it when you ask him for an itemized statement.—RAY D EVERSON, *The Indiana Farmers' Guide*.

On the Other Hand . . .



"Women, generally, look awful because the men are gone and they've no one to dress for."—ELIZABETH HAWES, dress designer and author of *Why Women Cry*.

" " "I interview about 50 women a day. They have never looked better. That's the way they are keeping up their morale. They're wonderful."—HARRY CONOVER, commercial photographer.

SPEECH—Speaking

G H Palmer said of English literature that its bookish times are its decadent times, its talking times its glory. Notice how literary is this sermon style, how far from common speech:

"In the dark flux of our time, yearning for that tranquility that is Peace and dedicating his energies to the fulfillment of his dream, Pope Pius will not, like another Pilate, attempt to wash his hands of the blood of the world."

The same idea, translated into "American", is speakable:

"Today Pope Pius dreams of Peace; he lives for it—perhaps will die for it. But he cannot wash his hands of the blood of the world, as Pilate did of the blood of Christ."

—JOHN B SHEERIN, C S P, "Conversational Preaching", *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*, 3-44.

The Fable of the Ombu Tree

MARY LINCOLN ORR

A delightful story has grown up around the ombu tree. The people tell how God, the Creator, distributed his gifts to the trees of Argentina—how He called them together one day and asked what characteristic each would prefer for his very own.

The *lignum vitae* immediately wished for strength more enduring than iron. The *jacaranda* desired the nimbleness of poetry. The *laurel* begged for dark lustrous leaves over its silvery trunk. The *guava* asked for sugary fruit to furnish food for hungry people. The *ceiba* wanted red flowers to attract tired eyes. The *tala* preferred rough knots and thorns to keep folks at a distance. The *arurea* surprised God by craving a mysterious power to hurt intruders. The *paraiso* requested perfume. The *tacuras* said it would "like the wind to whistle music through its leaves so that children might smile as they do when they see the tail of a comet whirring across the sky."

After God had distributed all his gifts, the ombu was left without a present. "What shall I be able to offer you, poor ombu?" pondered the Creator.

"Shade for the rest of men," said the ombu.

"All possess this," answered God.

"Well", hesitated the ombu, "I desire that my wood be weak, spongy, and fragile, that it break at the least pressure, and return to powder with contact of sun and rain. I wish that it be too delicate to ever hold the nail of a carpenter."

The peculiar wish astonished God.

"Ombu, I cannot understand," He said, "why do you not ask for bright flowers or sweet fruits? Why not desire beautiful wood to fashion a crib for a new baby, a table for a family, a boat for a voyage, or a coffin for eternal rest?"

"My Father," answered the ombu, "they say that once a man dwelt on this earth who preached love, justice, and goodness, but men persecuted him. They condemned him, and nailed him to a cross made from the wood of some beautiful tree."

"I never want to aid in the crime of crucifying one who is just, loving and good. So give me what I ask, my Father. Then I shall enjoy tranquillity knowing that I bring only happiness to the world."

After listening attentively, God granted the strange request. That is why the ombu tree crumbles to dust so quickly, and cannot hold a carpenter's nail.—*The Pan American*.

STATISTICS

A preacher in Ga had the custom of telling the Lord all the news in his prayers. On one occasion he began a petition for help against the corruption in his town with this statement: "Thou great Jehovah crime is on the increase. It is becoming more prevalent daily. I can prove it to You by statistics."—*Church Mgt.*

WAR—Personnel

"I am only a Reserve, sir," the young sailor admitted deprecatingly, in the presence of a crusty old admiral.

The admiral wagged an admonishing finger. "Young man," he said,

"never use the word 'only' to describe your status. The U S Navy, as such, never won a war. Nor has the Regular Army won one, except with the aid of Reserves. Always remember this:

"You win the wars. We simply keep the guns clean during peace-time."—*Naval Air Station News*.

WOMEN—and Secrets

The WACs have disproved the old line about women not being able to keep their mouths shut. For months six WAC secretaries in N Africa knew more about plans for the Sicilian campaign than any but the highest generals—and not a word leaked.—*MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE*, photographer, quoted in *Atlanta Jnl.*



The Two Forlorn

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

Dr. Van Loon, who died fortnight ago, in his 62nd yr, was born in Rotterdam, Holland. He was educated at Harvard and Cornell; took his Ph D at U of Munich.

The following excerpt is abridged from the *Foreword of The Arts* (Simon & Schuster, '37)

We were traveling thru the dreariest part of our country. A few minutes before, the train had come to a halt.

Some 200 yds away there stood a house. It needed paint and repairs, as did every farmhouse we had seen for 24 hrs. Out of that farmhouse came a boy and a girl. They wore hideous woolen caps and mufflers. Slithering thru the slush, they stopped in the road to gaze at our train. It was their only link with a world wherein people ate griddlecakes from tables with small pink-shaded lamps, wherein women wore dresses of gaily colored materials, wherein men might sit and pleasantly idle away an hour.

For all I knew, those two children would never see that wonderland with their own eyes. Yet—a miracle might happen; that train might fill their hearts with a holy curiosity for all those things that make life beautiful.

Then I saw, tightly clutched in the girl's mittenend hand, one of those blue portfolios in which children take pictures to school. The boy, in his equally hideous red cap and muffler, carried a very shiny black fiddle case...

And then, suddenly, everything became clear to me. I knew that I should write a book on *The Arts*. A book for those two forlorn kids who looked eagerly at that train—that train that was going places.

A London Cockney was asked if he wasn't scared when a bad blitz was on.

"Well, no, guv'nor," he ans'd. "Yer see, I count me chances. Jerry has got t' take off all right, ain't he? Then 'e's got t' cross the Channel, and that ain't too easy fer 'im. Then 'e's got t' git by the coast. Then comes the Thames Estuary, and that ain't all he likes. Then comes London. He can't miss that. But then 'e's got to find 'Ammer-smith, then Acacia Road, then No 87, and then most likely I'll be at the pub."—*L & N Magazine*.

" "

A girl wearing two officers' silver bars pinned to her sweater was asked, "Is your boy friend a captain?"

"Oh, no," she answered, "two lieutenants."—*5th Service Command News*.

" "

After terrific struggles, the freshman finally finished his examination paper, looked it sadly over, and then, at the end, wrote: "Dear Professor: If you sell any of my answers to the funny papers, I expect you to split fifty-fifty with me."—*Christian Observer*.

" "

A fussy little woman had driven the grocer nearly frantic helping her figure out her ration points and find what she wanted during the busiest time of the day. At last he managed to satisfy her.

"Do you know, Mr. Peck," sighed the shopper in relief, "when I came into your store I had a dreadful headache. I've quite lost it now." "It isn't lost," growled the distracted grocer. "I have it!"—*Coronet*.

" "

Friend of ours, in Washington recently, came across a middle-aged acquaintance in uniform.

"Why, Bill, I didn't know you were in the Army."

"Yep," said Bill, "I'm here to relieve a WAC who is being sent overseas."—*Nation's Business*.

" "

"And please, Lord," prayed a little girl with a sweetheart in the ranks, "distribute the enemy's bullets the way our army passes out the pay—mostly to the officers!"—*Our Army*.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

Edw G ROBINSON

Back in the old days when every producer was a character, there was one who resolved to film the life story of Napoleon, in a truly spectacular way. Everything was to be on a grand scale.

Presently, the casting director began interviewing actors to play the title role. He sorted out the most promising and sent them in, one by one, to the producer.

After he had talked to the whole lot, the producer, disappointed and somewhat hot under the collar, summoned the casting director.

"I am not un'understanding it," said the exasperated big shot. "Here we are meking big plans—a colossal picture already—and you are sanding me positively the shortest ectors in Hollywood!"

Hot Dog

Man is like a sausage—
Fair upon the skin,
But you can't tell by the outside
How much hog there is within.

A small manufacturing plant out here in the midwest was driven by the manpower shortage to experiment with women workers.

At the end of the first wk, a foreman was summing up results with an office executive. "The production isn't so bad," he admitted grudgingly, "but, gosh, that everlasting chatter! The women talk all the time."

"But surely you must realize," said the boss leniently, "that women's work is never dumb."

"Stand up," shouted the colored evangelist, "if you want to go to heaven!"

Everyone got up but one old man.

"Don't you want to go to heaven, Brother?" shouted the preacher.

"Sho," said the old man, "but Ah ain't goin wid no excursion! Ah's crowded 'nuff down heah."—*Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine*.

WISECRACKS of the Week

The Blackfeet Indians have named Willkie "Flying Eagle". It's a moot question whether a flying eagle can out-distance a team of reindeer.—OLIN MILLER.

" "

Common idea of Freedom: Somebody else keep order and do the chores and let me enjoy the benefits.—ROB'T QUILLEN.

" "

A secret is something that everybody knows but that the small-town newspaper can't publish.—*Loyal (Wis) Tribune*.

" "

Mason-Dixon Line: A geographical division between "you-all" and "youse guys".—*Pittsburgh-Nat'l Water Jnl*.

Seven-yr-old Tommy is no mental giant—but stoutly refuses to harbor an inferiority complex. When someone asked recently how he was getting along at school, he replied, "I think I'm doing all right. I am the fastest one in the slow group."

